BY PETER B. GILLIS, MARTIN KING & ALAN KUPPERBERG
GAMMARAUDERS™
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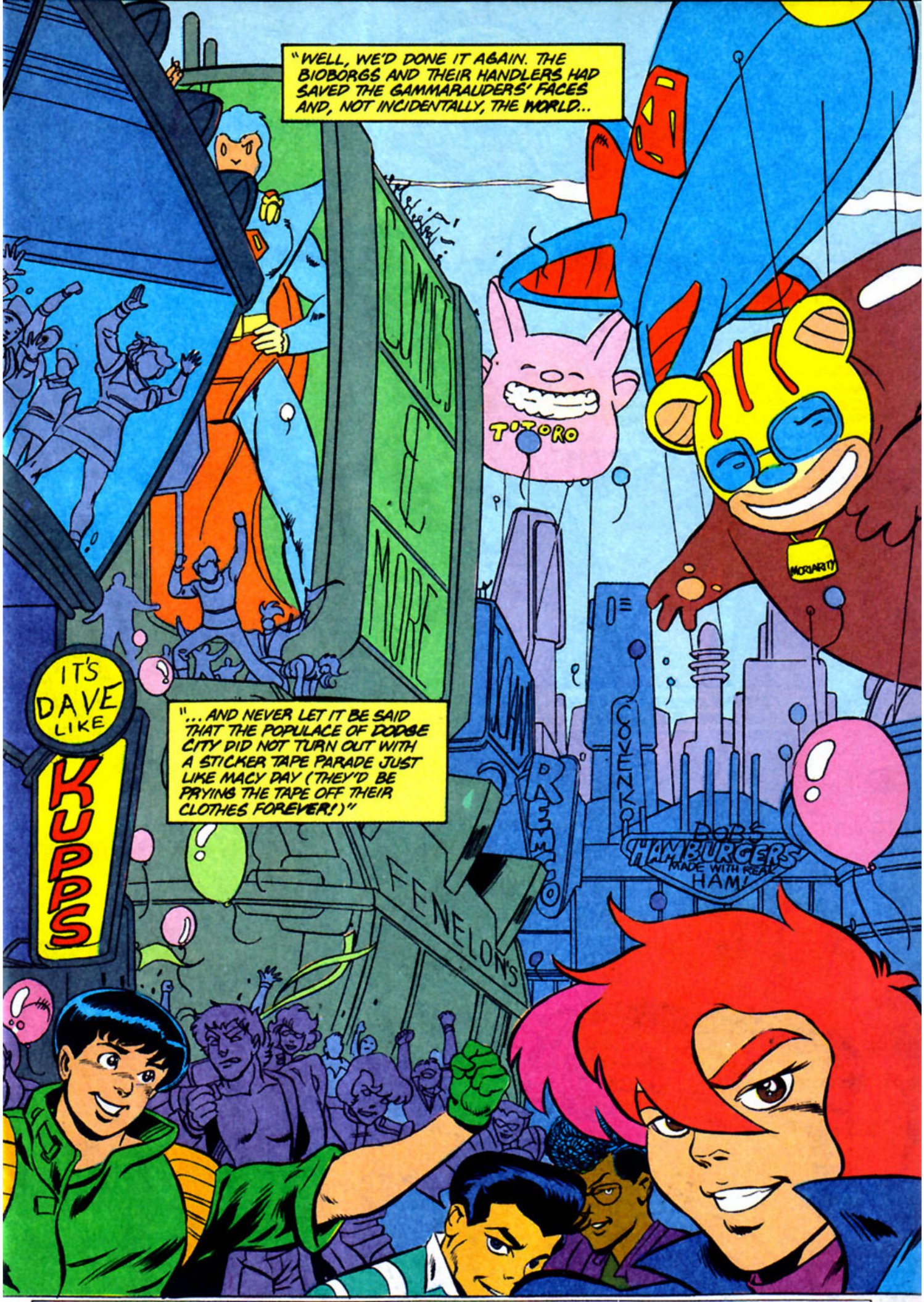
NOV 89
US $2.00
CAN $2.50
UK £ 1.20
WELCOME TO CONGRESS! JOK TADSWORTH...
GAMMA-HEY!
...LOOK ALIVE!



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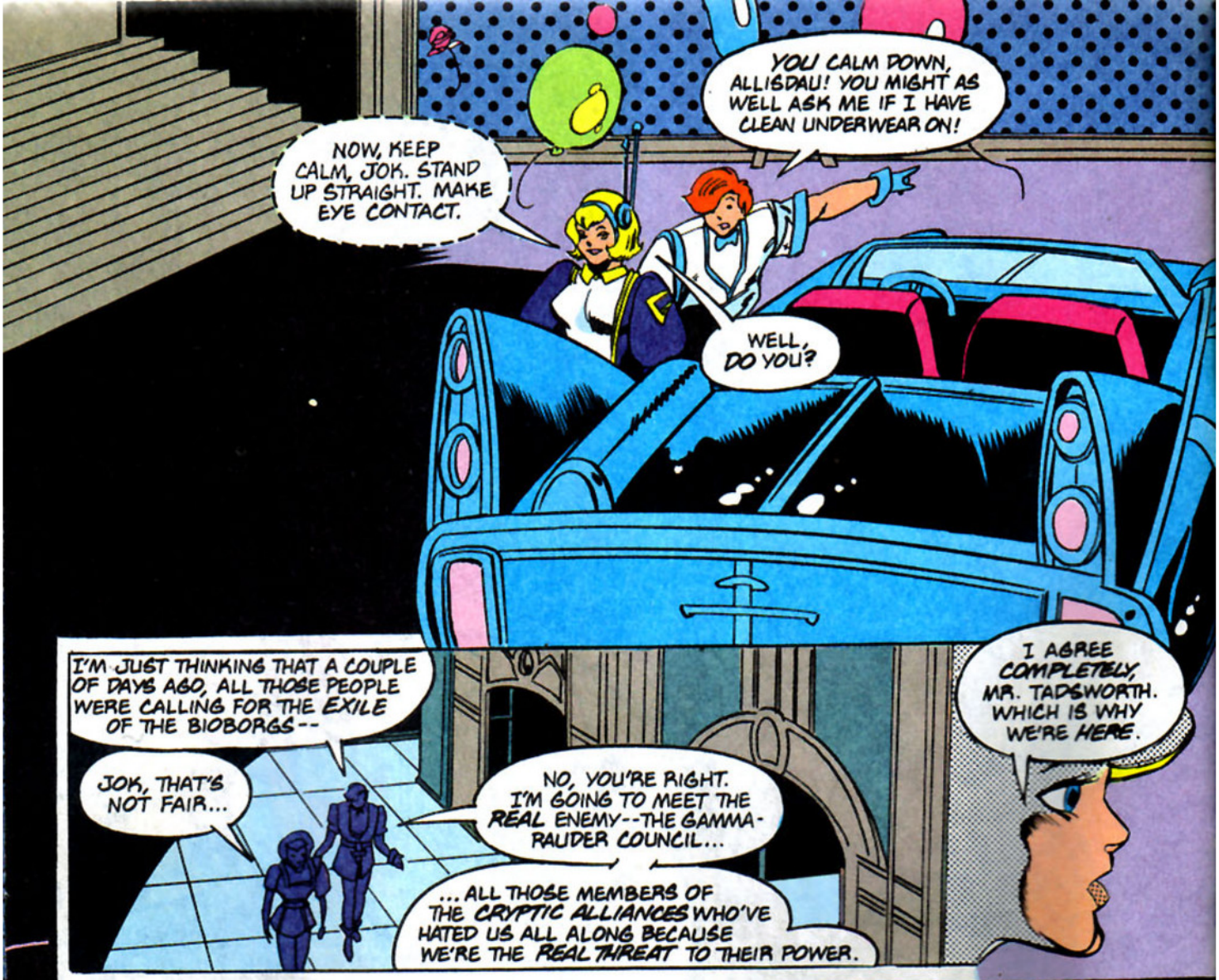
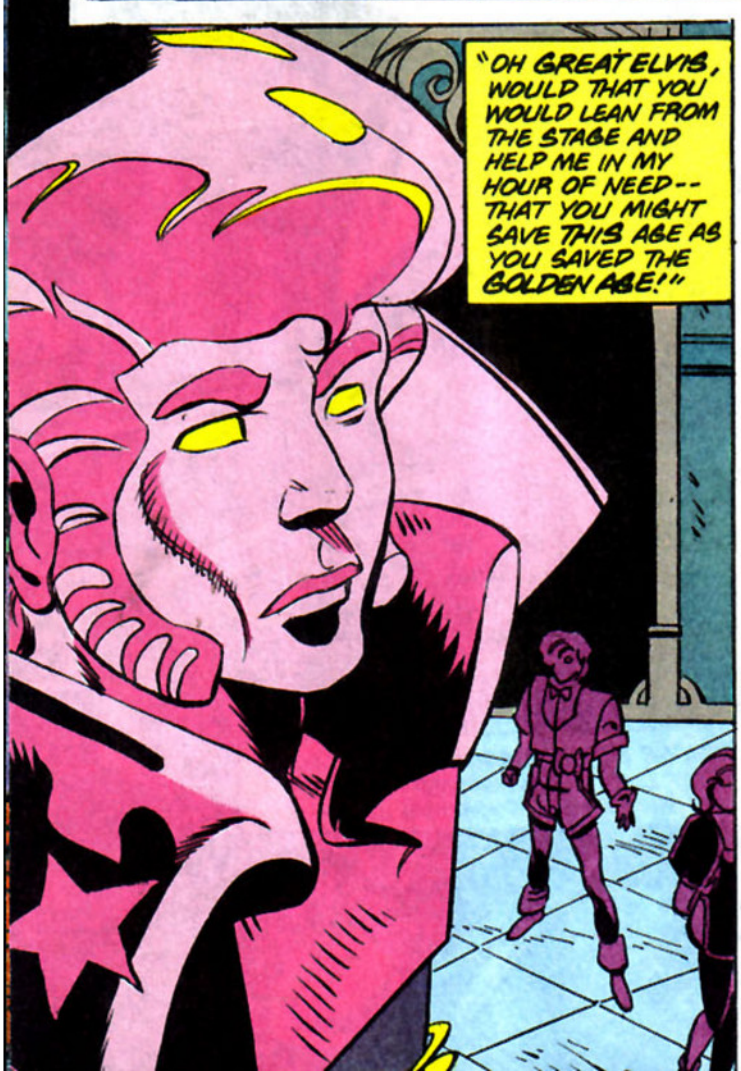
G-5018

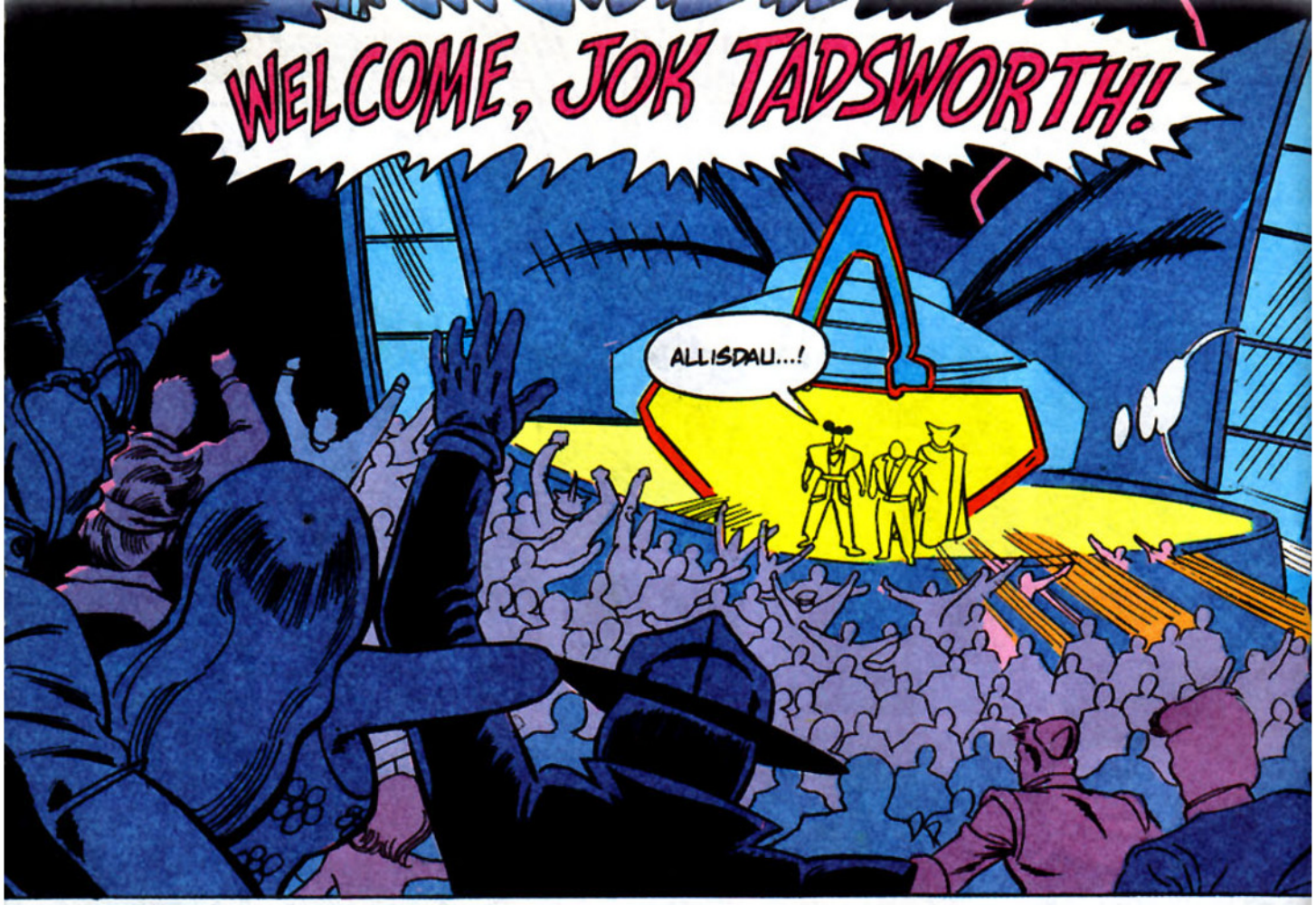
"AND I HAVE TO SAY THE BOARS ALSO ROSE TO THE OCCASION--EVEN THOUGH YOU COULD STILL SMELL SQUAWWK FROM THREE MILES AWAY.
"HEY! THE CHEERING WAS FOR THEM, AND THEY KNEW IT.
"AS FOR ME, WELL, I HAD ENOUGH TO DO WITH THE FINAL VICTORY OVER ROSEBUD THAT THEY MADE ALLISDALI AND ME RIDE UP FRONT. THAT, ALONG WITH SOME OTHER REASONS.
"THOSE OTHER REASONS WERE WHY I FELT LIKE A CONDEMNED MAN ON HIS WAY TO THE SHOPPING BLOCK."


NOW, KEEP CALM, JOK. STAND UP STRAIGHT. MAKE EYE CONTACT.
YOU CALM DOWN, ALLISDAU! YOU MIGHT AS WELL ASK ME IF I HAVE CLEAN UNDERWEAR ON!
WELL, DO YOU?

I'M JUST THINKING THAT A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, ALL THOSE PEOPLE WERE CALLING FOR THE EXILE OF THE BIOBORGS--
JOK, THAT'S NOT FAIR...
NO, YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M GOING TO MEET THE REAL ENEMY--THE GAMMA-RAIDER COUNCIL...
... ALL THOSE MEMBERS OF THE CRYPTIC ALLIANCES WHO'VE HATED US ALL ALONG BECAUSE WE'RE THE REAL THREAT TO THEIR POWER.
I AGREE COMPLETELY, MR. TADSWORTH. WHICH IS WHY WE'RE HERE.


"OH GREAT ELVIS, WOULD THAT YOU WOULD LEAN FROM THE STAGE AND HELP ME IN MY HOUR OF NEED-- THAT YOU MIGHT SAVE THIS AGE AS YOU SAVED THE GOLDEN AGE!"

"FOR YOU KNEW TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS ALSO-- WHEN YOU WERE DELIVERED FROM THE GREAT JAIL-HOUSE OF ROCK, WHEN YOU HID IN THE HOTEL OF HEARTBREAK, IN THE GHETTO... WHEN YOU STOOD BEFORE THE SUSPICIOUS MINDS AND THEY SUBJECTED YOU TO THE DRAFT...
"...YET YOU ROSE FROM OUT OF THE ASHES OF LOST VEGAS IN TRIUMPH. OH, ELVIS, BE WITH ME..."
JOK TADSWORTH, STEP YOU FORTH.


WELCOME, JOK TADSWORTH!
ALLISDAU...!

YES, JOK?
COULD YOU KINDLY TELL ME JUST WHAT THE FUDD IS GOING ON?...
...THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO GET AN AWARD OR SOMETHING...
I COULDN'T HAVE TOLD YOU BEFORE, BECAUSE YOU'D'VE REFUSED--
YOU'RE DARN RIGHT I--
--BUT YOU'RE NOW A FULL VOTING MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS OF EQUALS.
YOU LIE TO ME AND--I'M A WHAT?
SMILE FOR THE CROWD, JOK.
SMILE FOR THE...
THE LOUD FOLKS BEHIND YOU.
GOOD BOY, JOK.
I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS...
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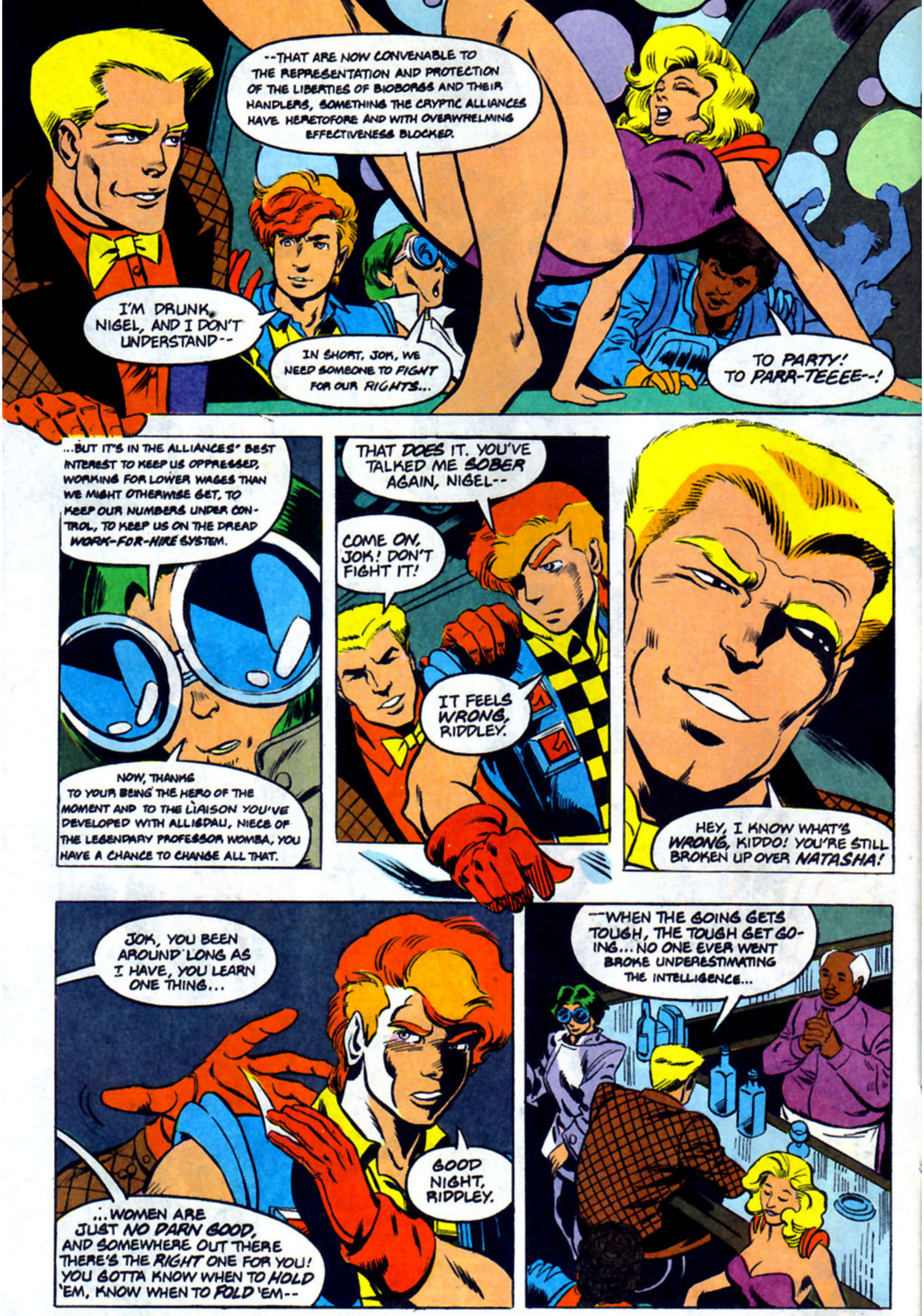
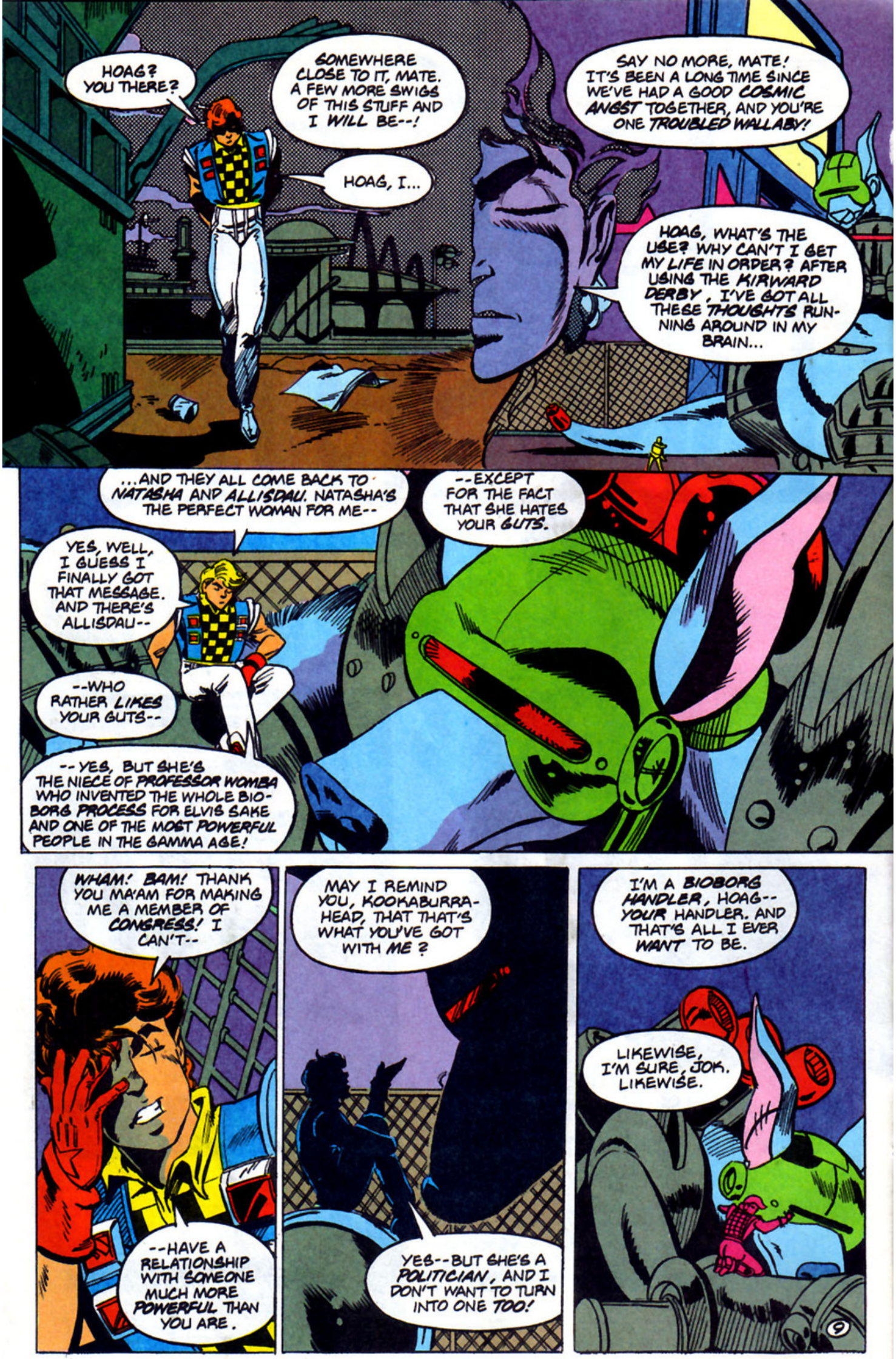
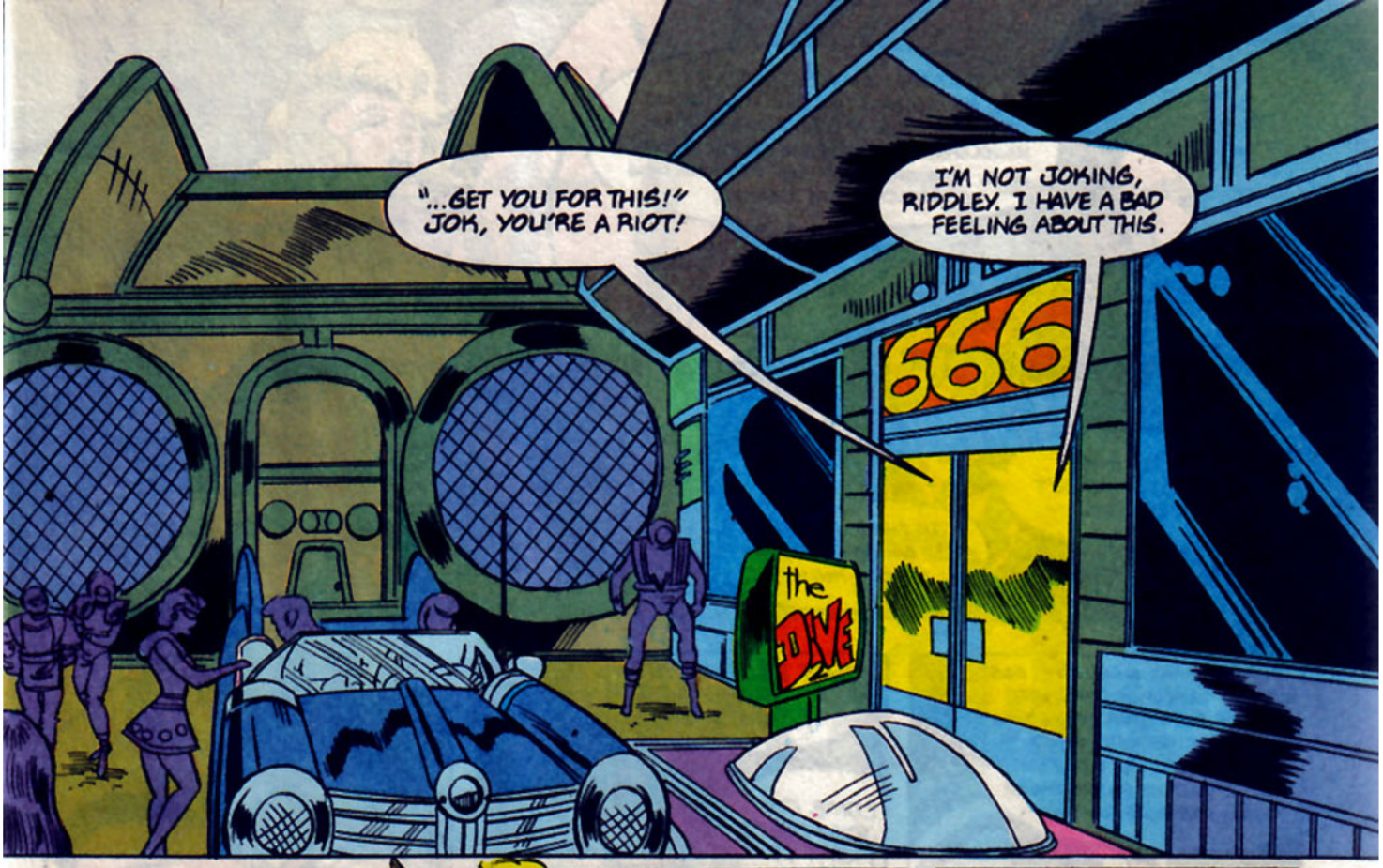

--THAT ARE NOW CONVENABLE TO THE REPRESENTATION AND PROTECTION OF THE LIBERTIES OF BIOBORGS AND THEIR HANDLERS, SOMETHING THE CRYPTIC ALLIANCES HAVE HERETOFORE AND WITH OVERWHELMING EFFECTIVENESS BLOCKED.
I'M DRUNK, NIGEL, AND I DON'T UNDERSTAND--
IN SHORT, JOK, WE NEED SOMEONE TO FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHTS...
TO PARTY! TO PARR-TEEEE--!
...BUT IT'S IN THE ALLIANCES' BEST INTEREST TO KEEP US OPPRESSED, WORKING FOR LOWER WAGES THAN WE MIGHT OTHERWISE GET, TO KEEP OUR NUMBERS UNDER CONTROL, TO KEEP US ON THE DREAD WORK-FOR-HIRE SYSTEM.
NOW, THANKS TO YOUR BEING THE HERO OF THE MOMENT AND TO THE LIAISON YOU'VE DEVELOPED WITH ALLIGDALI, NIECE OF THE LEGENDARY PROFESSOR WOMBA, YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO CHANGE ALL THAT.
THAT DOES IT. YOU'VE TALKED ME SOBER AGAIN, NIGEL--
COME ON, JOK! DON'T FIGHT IT!
IT FEELS WRONG, RIDDLEY.
HEY, I KNOW WHAT'S WRONG, KIDDO! YOU'RE STILL BROKEN UP OVER NATASHA!
JOK, YOU BEEN AROUND LONG AS I HAVE, YOU LEARN ONE THING...
GOOD NIGHT, RIDDLEY.
...WOMEN ARE JUST NO DARN GOOD, AND SOMEWHERE OUT THERE THERE'S THE RIGHT ONE FOR YOU! YOU GOTTA KNOW WHEN TO HOLD 'EM, KNOW WHEN TO FOLD 'EM--
--WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, THE TOUGH GET GOING... NO ONE EVER WENT BROKE UNDERESTIMATING THE INTELLIGENCE...


HOAG? YOU THERE?
SOMEWHERE CLOSE TO IT, MATE. A FEW MORE SWIGS OF THIS STUFF AND I WILL BE--!
HOAG, I...
SAY NO MORE, MATE! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE HAD A GOOD COSMIC ANGST TOGETHER, AND YOU'RE ONE TROUBLED WALLABY!
HOAG, WHAT'S THE USE? WHY CAN'T I GET MY LIFE IN ORDER? AFTER USING THE KIRWARD DERBY, I'VE GOT ALL THESE THOUGHTS RUNNING AROUND IN MY BRAIN...
...AND THEY ALL COME BACK TO NATASHA AND ALLISDAU. NATASHA'S THE PERFECT WOMAN FOR ME--
--EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT SHE HATES YOUR GUTS.
YES, WELL, I GUESS I FINALLY GOT THAT MESSAGE. AND THERE'S ALLISDAU--
--WHO RATHER LIKES YOUR GUTS--
--YES, BUT SHE'S THE NIECE OF PROFESSOR WOMBA WHO INVENTED THE WHOLE BIOBORG PROCESS FOR ELVIS SAKE AND ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE IN THE GAMMA AGE!
WHAM! BAM! THANK YOU MA'AM FOR MAKING ME A MEMBER OF CONGRESS! I CAN'T--
--HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMEONE MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU ARE.
MAY I REMIND YOU, KOOKABURRA-HEAD, THAT THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE GOT WITH ME?
YES--BUT SHE'S A POLITICIAN, AND I DON'T WANT TO TURN INTO ONE TOO!
I'M A BIOBORG HANDLER, HOAG--YOUR HANDLER. AND THAT'S ALL I EVER WANT TO BE.
LIKEWISE, I'M SURE, JOK. LIKEWISE.
9

YOU STAND AT THE THRESHOLD OF THE CHAMBER OF EQUALS...
...AND YOUR DESTINY!
HUH??
THE ANCIENT RITUAL MUST BE FULFILLED!
DO IT, MAN.
HERE'S YOUR HAT!
AND WHAT A HAT IT IS!
LIKE, COMPLETE THE CYCLE, DUDE!
AND HERE'S YOUR EARS!
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS...?
WHY?-- BECAUSE WE LIKE YOU!
"We'd like to help you, son, but you're too weird to vote!"
5
PETER B. GILLIS / STORY MARTIN KING / PENCILS ALAN KUPPERBERG / INKS
DUNCAN ANDREWS / LETTERS MATT WEBB / COLORS ELLIOT S. MAGGIN / EDITOR


"...GET YOU FOR THIS!" JOK, YOU'RE A RIOT!
I'M NOT JOKING, RIDDLEY. I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
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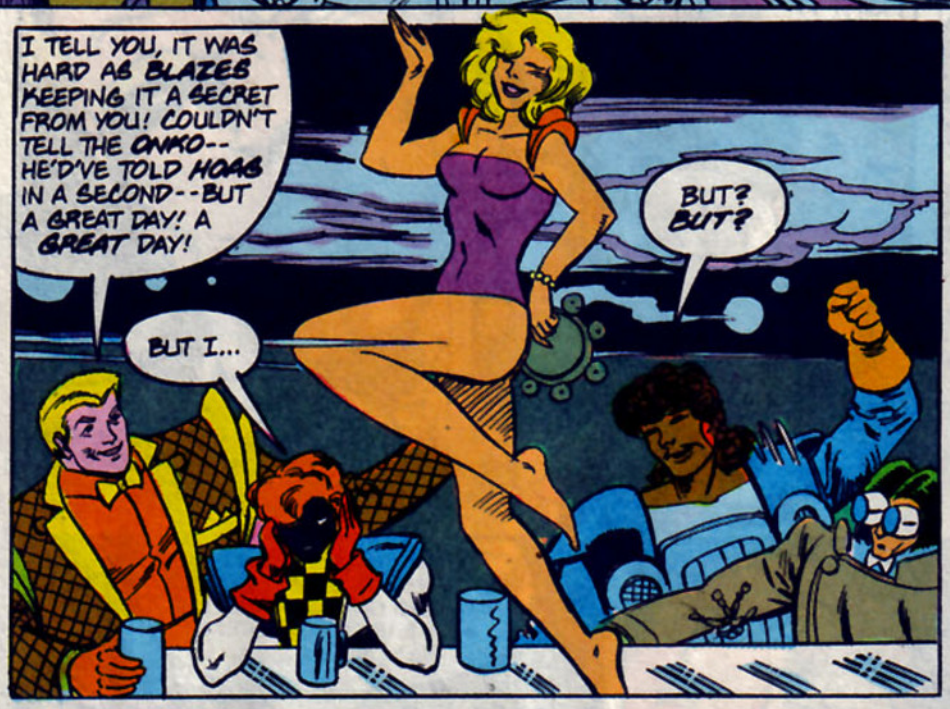
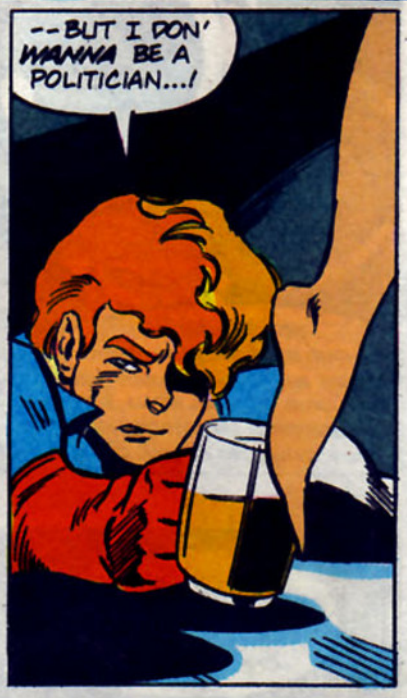

I TELL YOU, IT WAS HARD AS BLAZES KEEPING IT A SECRET FROM YOU! COULDN'T TELL THE ONKO-- HE'D'VE TOLD HOAG IN A SECOND--BUT A GREAT DAY! A GREAT DAY!
BUT I...
BUT? BUT?


--BUT I DON' WANNA BE A POLITICIAN...!

COME ON, JOK, IT'S THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME!
CHUCK IS IN A SENSE RIGHT, IF NOT FOR THE MAGNITUDE OF THE OPPORTUNITY, THEN SURELY FOR ITS RARITY WHICH HAS BEEN INFINITE IN THAT YOU ARE THE FIRST BIOBORG HANDLER EVER TO ATTAIN THE STATION AND THE HONORS AND POWERS APPERTAINING THERETO--

THE CONGRESS OF EQUALS...
AN' FOIDAMORE, ME 'N DAH BOYS BELIEVE DAT D'APPORTIONMENT OF FUNDS TOWARDS DAH RECONSTRUCTION OF DODGE CITY BE LEVIED ACCORDING TO DAH FORMULA HEREIN SUBMITTED, TAKIN' INTO ACCOUNT RESOURCES, EXTENT OF POISONAL AN' CRYPTIC ALLIANCE DAMAGES, AN' DAH AMOUNT OF BACK DUES OWED TO DIS AUGUST BODY--
--KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

IF THERE ARE NO OBJECTIONS, THEN, WE WILL--
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, MR. CHAIRMAN, ARTICLE 17, SECTION 23 OF THE UNIFORM GAMMARAIDER CODE STRICTLY STATES THAT EMERGENCY RECONSTRUCTION FUNDS SHALL BE APPORTIONED STRICTLY ON A BASIS OF NEED, AND THAT NO OTHER ISSUES CURRENTLY BEFORE THE CONGRESS--LIKE THE DUES ARREARS OF THE RADICAL DEBS AND CRIMSON MOON--SHALL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

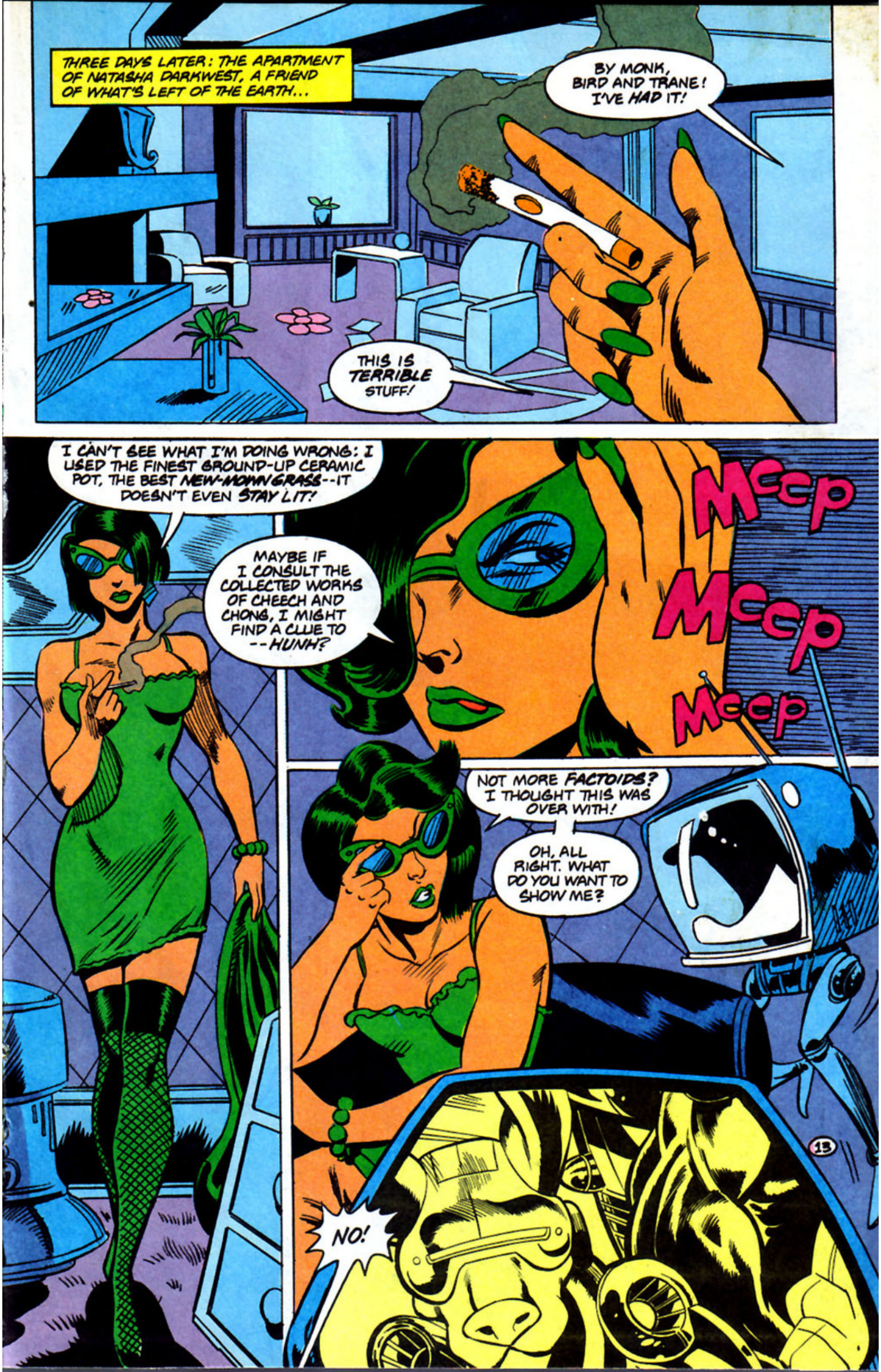
:AHEM: THE HONORABLE MR. TADSWORTH APPEARS TO BE, IN FACT, CORRECT.
WE WILL ADJOURN UNTIL TOMORROW SO THAT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE CAN SUBMIT A REVISED RECOMMENDATION.
TOO SMART. TOO SMART FOR OUR OWN GOOD.
NO FOOLIN'.

THAT EVENING: THE PALACE OF THE AMBIGUOUS BUTTERFLY, OWNED BY THE CRIMSON MOON...
IT HAS BEEN SAID YOUR GREATEST WISH, CHUCK GREENWOOD-SAN, IS TO REGAIN HONOR IN THE EYES OF YOUR TEACHERS AND MASTERS. IS THAT VOICE CORRECT?
HAI, DAIMYO.
AND YOU KNOW, DO YOU NOT, THAT YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS ARE AS A GREAT MOUNTAIN--
--AND WERE IT NOT FOR KIZARO, BONDED TO YOU, AND WHO IS INTERMITTENTLY USEFUL, YOU WOULD NOT EVEN BE TOLERATED HERE?
HAI.
SO IF THERE WERE A WAY TO REMOVE THAT GREAT MOUNTAIN, TO REGAIN OUR FAVOR, WOULD YOU TAKE IT WITHOUT QUESTION, CHUCK GREENWOOD?
YES! I MEAN --HAI!
EVEN IF IT MEANT KILLING SOMEONE YOU REGARD AS A FRIEND, BUT WHOM THE CRIMSON MOON CONSIDERS AN ENEMY?
NO!
I SEE. GO THEN IN PEACE, AND WITHOUT BLAME, CHUCK GREENWOOD SAN...

YOU WILL DO IT, THEN?

HAI, DAIMYO. I--I WILL DO AS YOU ASK.

GOOD. AT THE NEXT HARVESTING OF THE PODINOIDS, LET THE DEED BE DONE.


THREE DAYS LATER: THE APARTMENT OF NATASHA DARKWEST, A FRIEND OF WHAT'S LEFT OF THE EARTH...
BY MONK, BIRD AND TRANE! I'VE HAD IT!
THIS IS TERRIBLE STUFF!
I CAN'T SEE WHAT I'M DOING WRONG: I USED THE FINEST GROUND-UP CERAMIC POT, THE BEST NEW-MOWN GRASS--IT DOESN'T EVEN STAY LIT!
MAYBE IF I CONSULT THE COLLECTED WORKS OF CHEECH AND CHONG, I MIGHT FIND A CLUE TO --HUNH?
Meep
Meep
Meep
NOT MORE FACTOIDS? I THOUGHT THIS WAS OVER WITH!
OH, ALL RIGHT. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SHOW ME?
NO!
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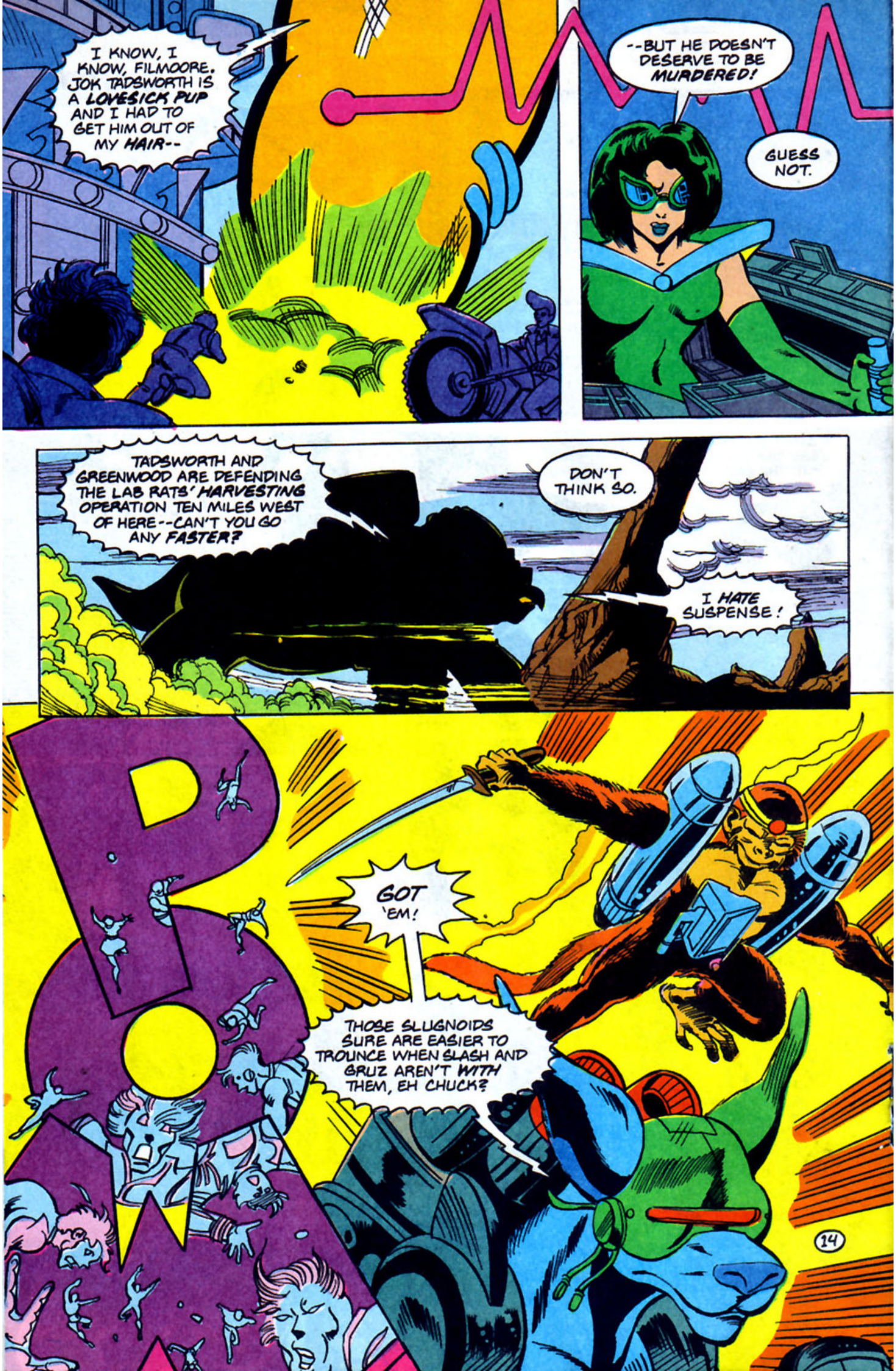
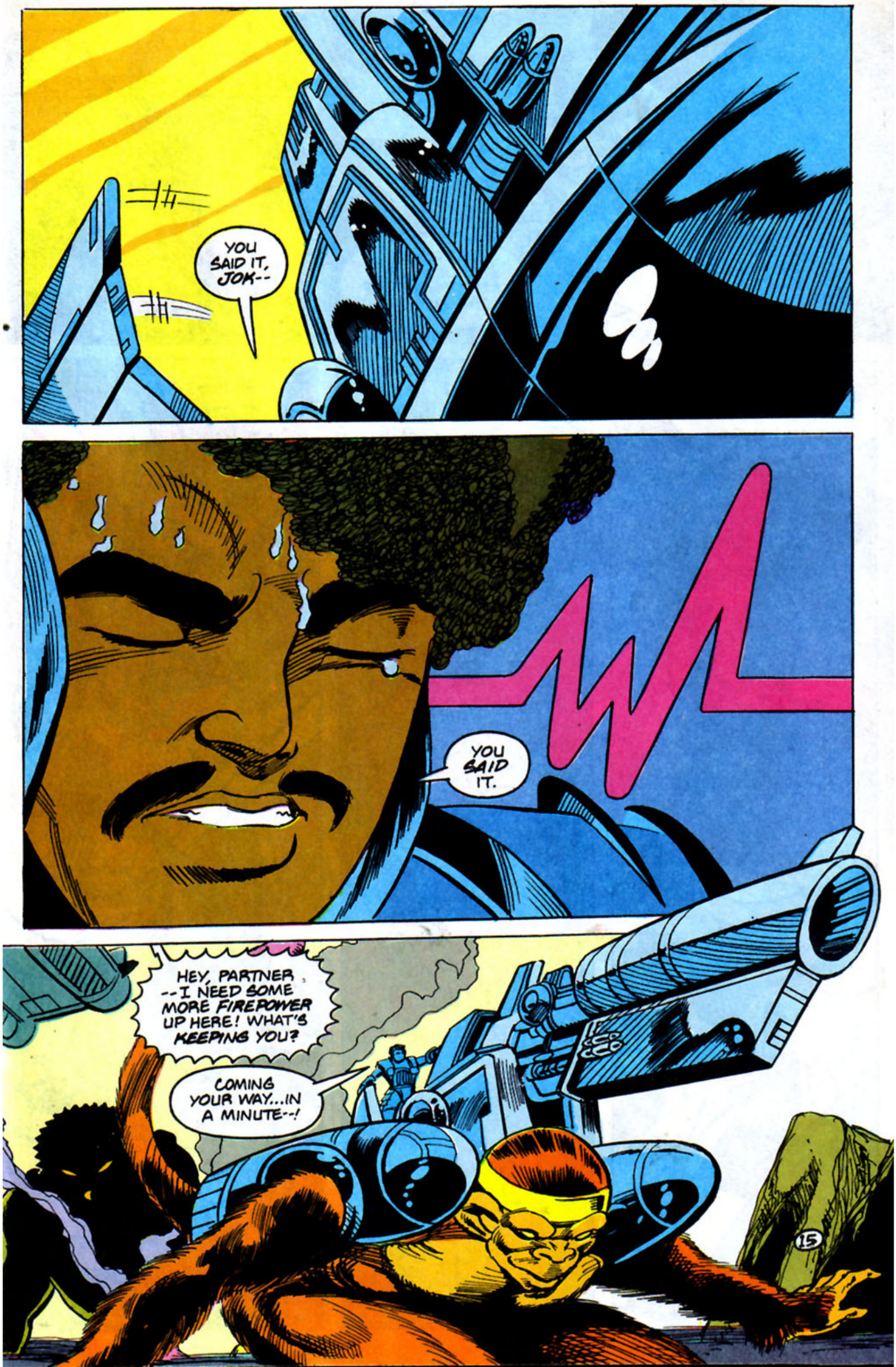

I KNOW, I KNOW, FILMOORE. JOK TADSWORTH IS A LOVESICK PUP AND I HAD TO GET HIM OUT OF MY HAIR--
--BUT HE DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE MURDERED!
GUESS NOT.
TADSWORTH AND GREENWOOD ARE DEFENDING THE LAB RATS' HARVESTING OPERATION TEN MILES WEST OF HERE--CAN'T YOU GO ANY FASTER?
DON'T THINK SO.
I HATE SUSPENSE!
GOT 'EM!
THOSE SLUGNOIDS SURE ARE EASIER TO TROUNCE WHEN SLASH AND GRUZ AREN'T WITH THEM, EH CHUCK?


YOU SAID IT, JOK--
YOU SAID IT.
HEY, PARTNER --I NEED SOME MORE FIREPOWER UP HERE! WHAT'S KEEPING YOU?
COMING YOUR WAY...IN A MINUTE--!
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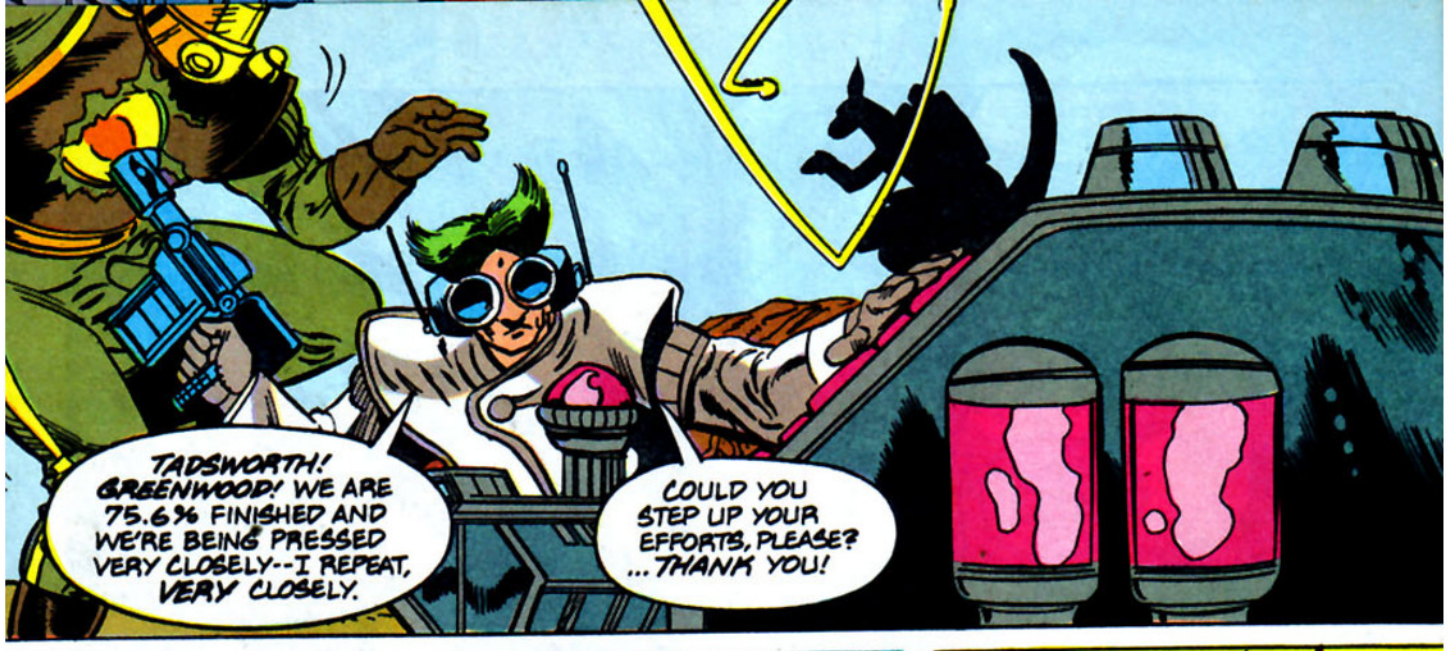
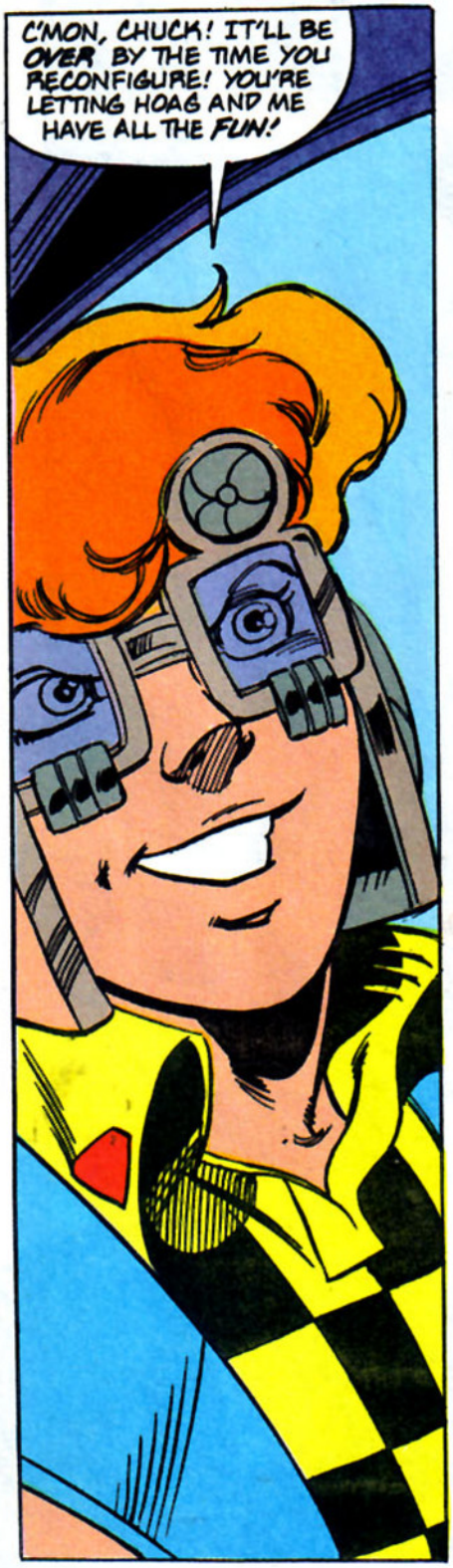
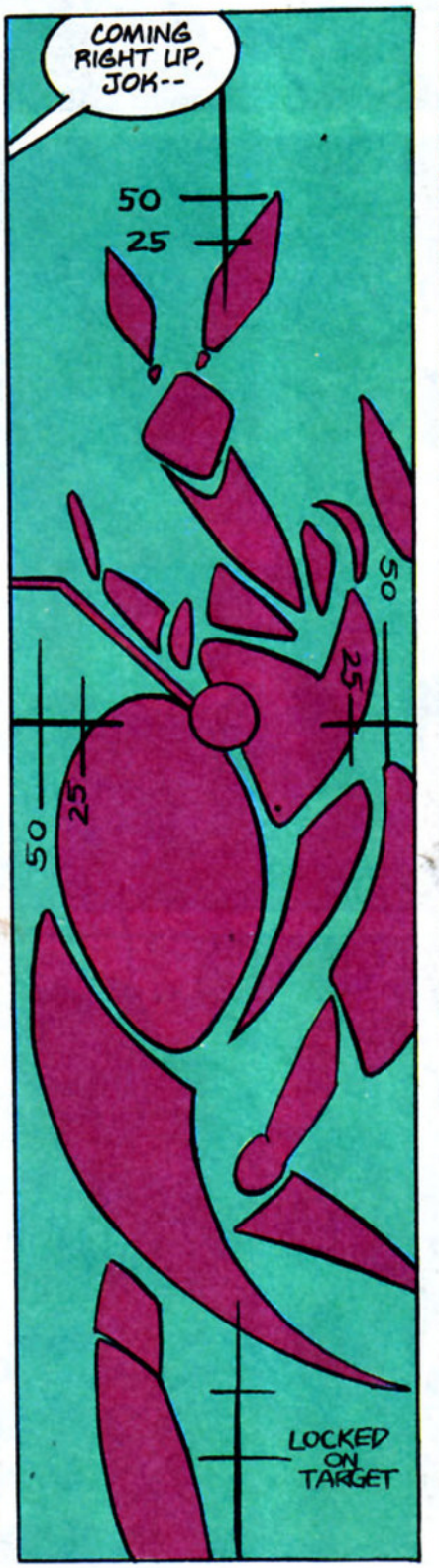

TADSWORTH! GREENWOOD! WE ARE 75.6% FINISHED AND WE'RE BEING PRESSED VERY CLOSELY--I REPEAT, VERY CLOSELY.
COULD YOU STEP UP YOUR EFFORTS, PLEASE? ...THANK YOU!


C'MON, CHUCK! IT'LL BE OVER BY THE TIME YOU RECONFIGURE! YOU'RE LETTING HOAG AND ME HAVE ALL THE FUN!


COMING RIGHT UP, JOK--
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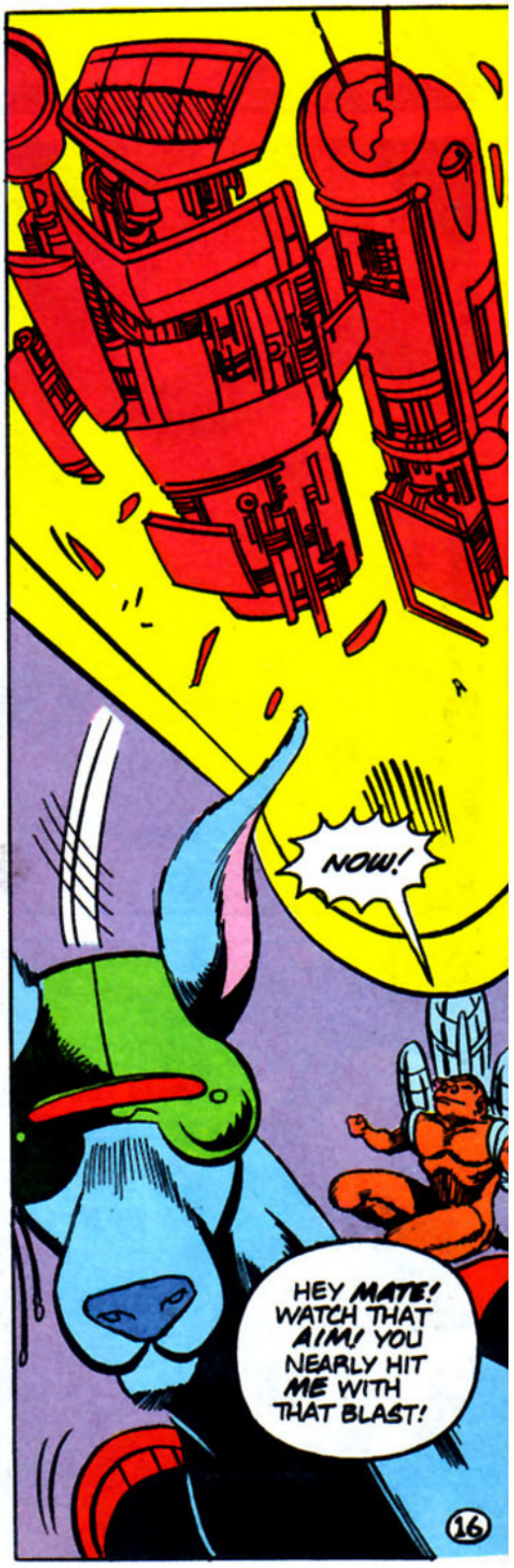
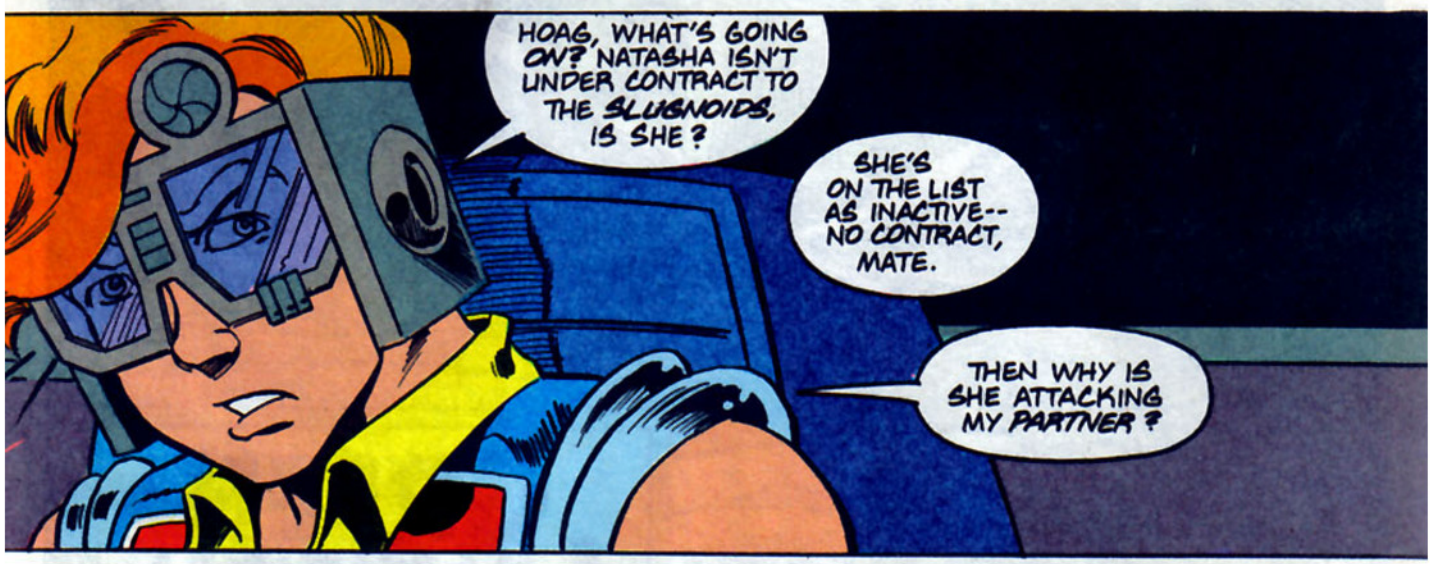
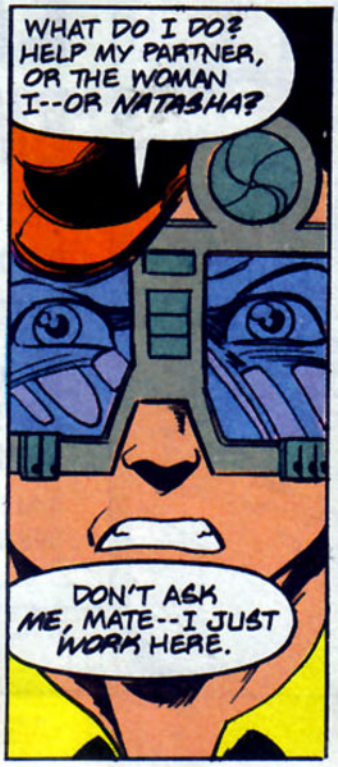
LOCKED ON TARGET

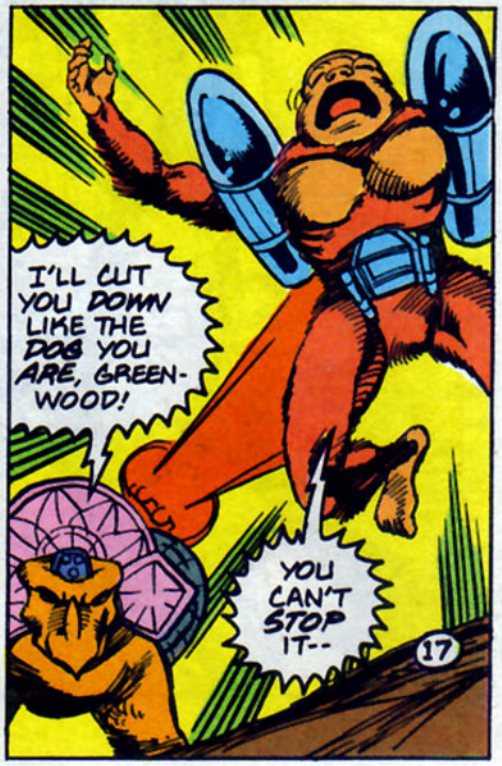

NOW!
HEY MATE! WATCH THAT AIM! YOU NEARLY HIT ME WITH THAT BLAST!

GREENWOOD!
GET AWAY FROM HIM, YOU TRAITOROUS MACHO-RETRO MEATBAG!
FILMOORE?... NATASHA?


HOAG, WHAT'S GOING ON? NATASHA ISN'T UNDER CONTRACT TO THE SLUGNOIDS, IS SHE?
SHE'S ON THE LIST AS INACTIVE-- NO CONTRACT, MATE.
THEN WHY IS SHE ATTACKING MY PARTNER?

YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT, YOU KNOW!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!


WHAT DO I DO? HELP MY PARTNER, OR THE WOMAN I--OR NATASHA?
DON'T ASK ME, MATE--I JUST WORK HERE.

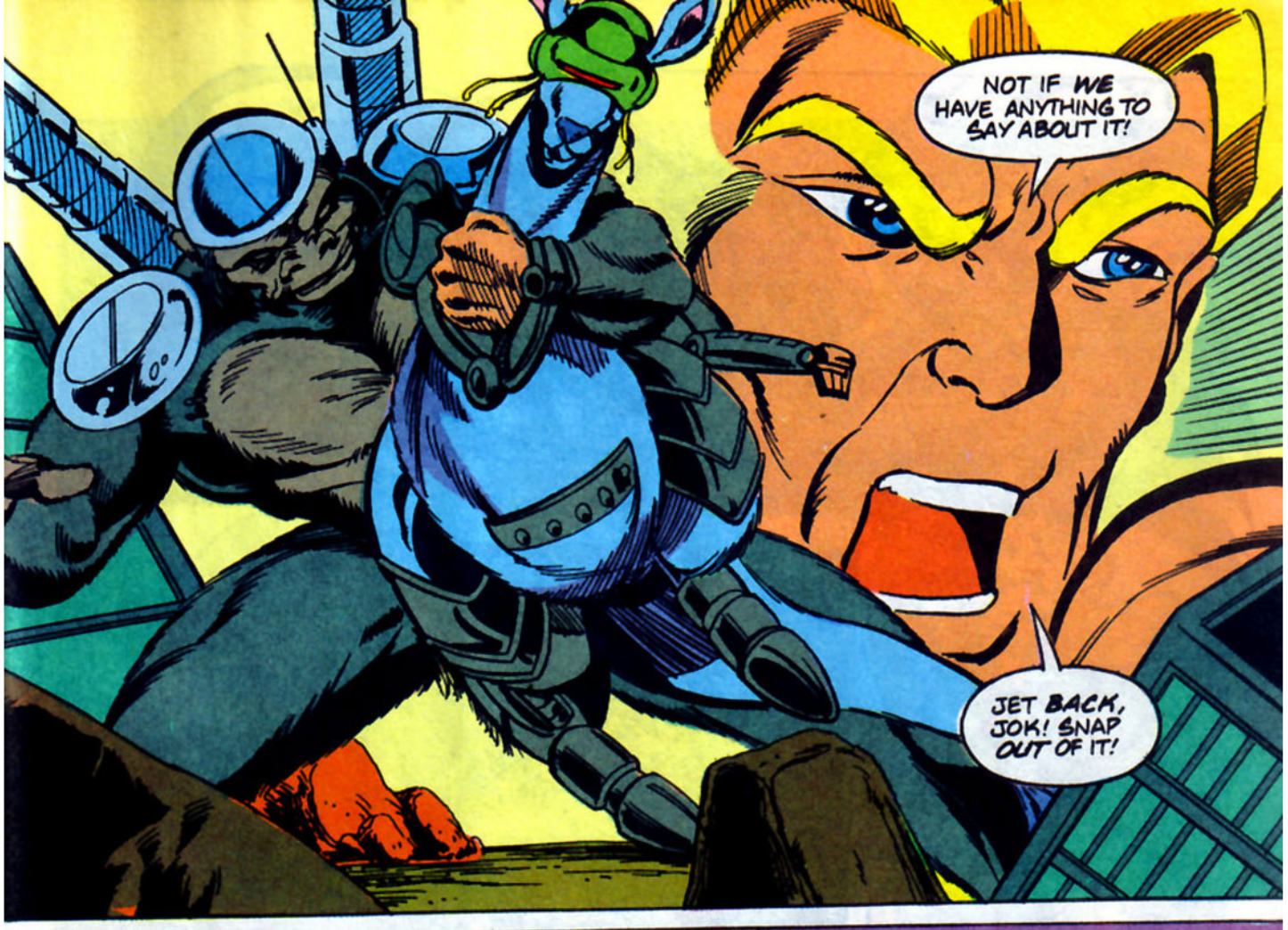

I'LL CUT YOU DOWN LIKE THE DOG YOU ARE, GREEN-WOOD!
YOU CAN'T STOP IT--

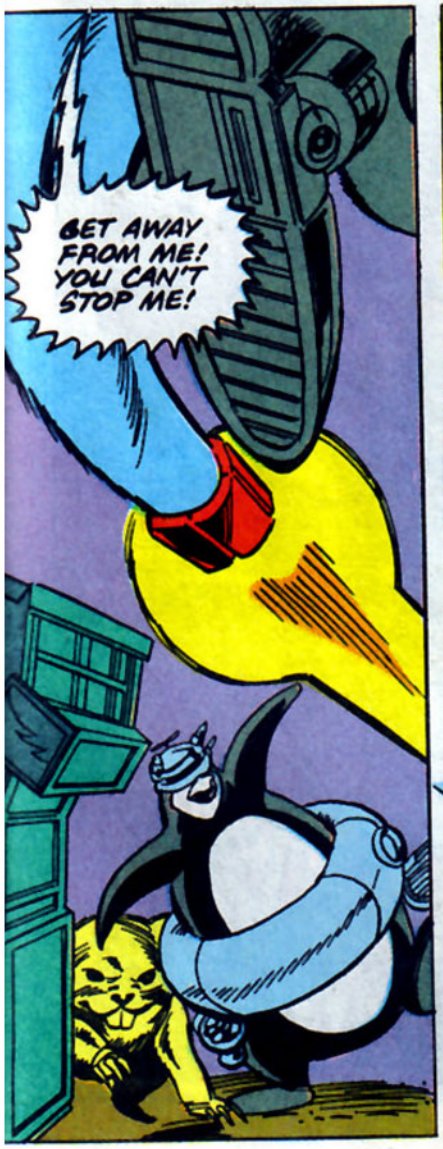
--FIRING--!
NATASHA!!
HE'S HURT BAD--REAL BAD, JOK. DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT BEAM WAS, BUT IT DID A DINKUM NUMBER ON--
TO HELL WITH FILMOORE! WHERE IS SHE?... WHERE IS SHE?
NATASHA --OH NO...
YOU'RE A... JERK, TAD... BUT DON'T... 'SERVE T'BE SHOT IN THE BACK...
CRIMSON MOON ORDERED YOU...DIE...
NATASHA--!
DON'T... DON'T, JOK...
DON'T HATE YOU THAT ... MUCH ...

NATASHA...

SHOT--
--IN THE--
--BACK!?!
WHO ORDERED THIS, CHUCK? WAS IT THE CRIMSON MOON?
ELVIS PRISCILLA AND LISA MARIE, JOK, I'M SORRY! I NEVER WANTED TO--I'VE BEEN A FOOL, SUCH A--
WAS IT THE CRIMSON MOON?
YES. THE REPRESENTATIVE IN THE CONGRESS GOT HOLD OF ME AND--AND--
JOK... DON'T...

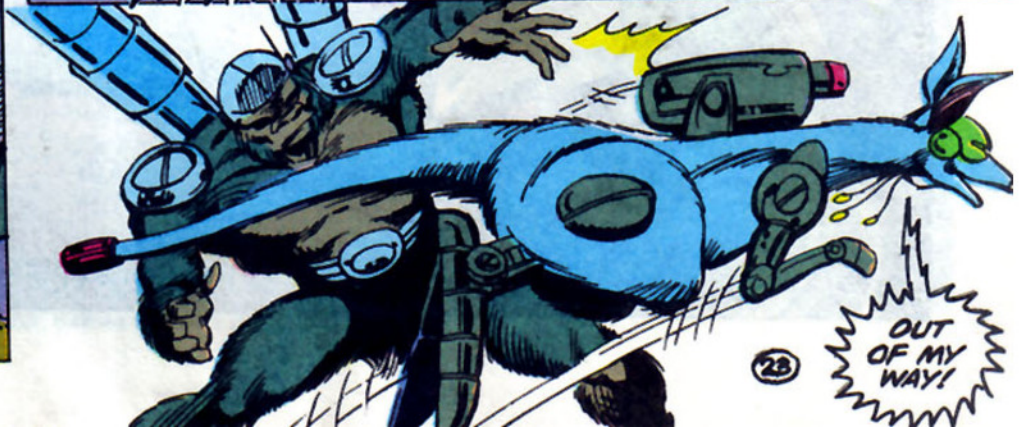
ORDER OF THE CRIMSON MOON! NOW HEAR THIS!
WHAT THE FUDD--?
SLAM
YOU HAVE MURDERED YOUR LAST INNOCENT!
NATASHA DARKWEST WILL BE YOUR LAST VICTIM BECAUSE--
--BECAUSE IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO DIE!

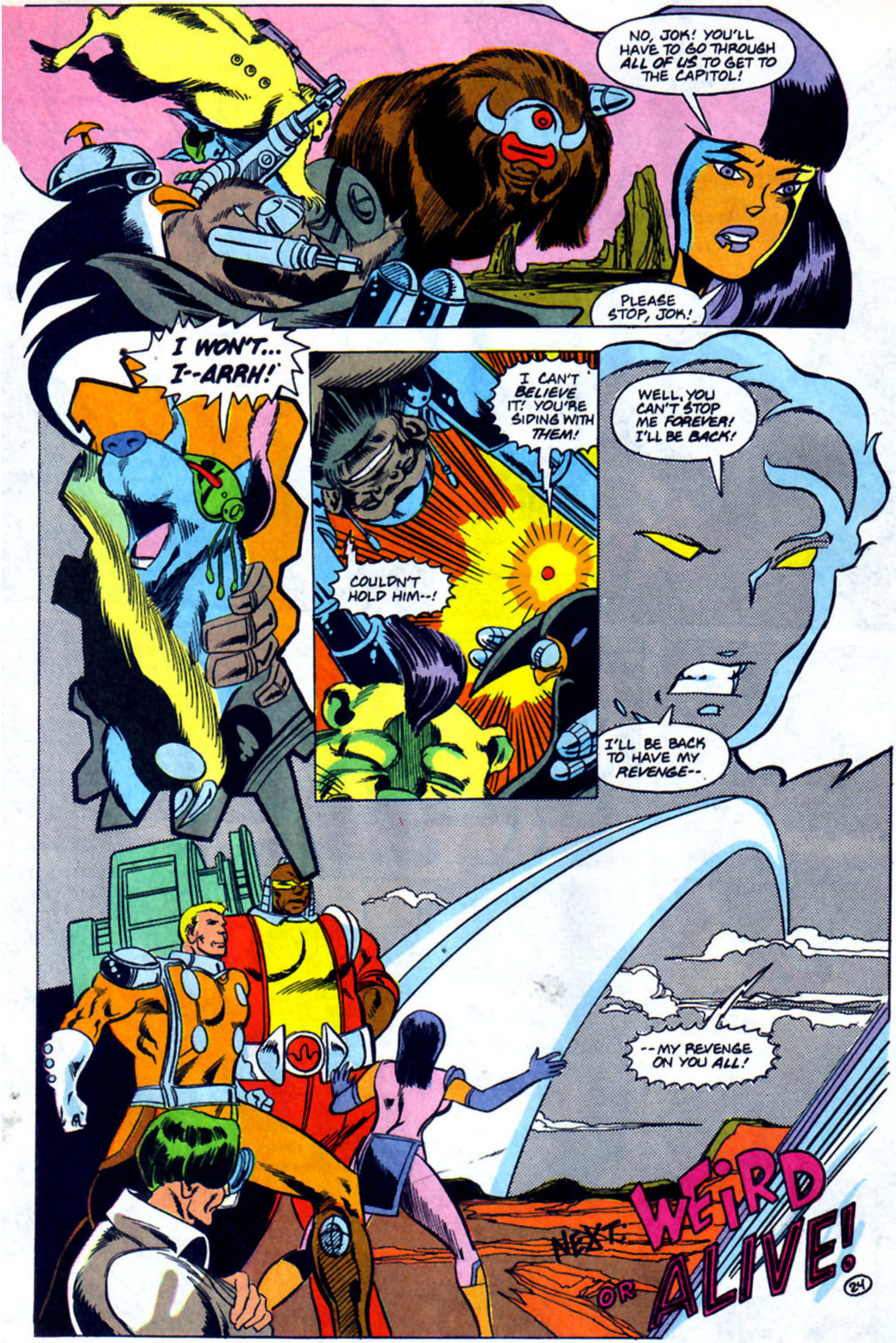

NOT IF WE HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!
JET BACK, JOK! SNAP OUT OF IT!


GET AWAY FROM ME! YOU CAN'T STOP ME!

WE WILL IF WE HAVE TO! SURE, IT WAS A TERRIBLE SHOCK--BUT WE CAN'T HAVE THE CAPITOL WRECKED!

WHILE I CAN'T HAVE ANYTHING!


OUT OF MY WAY!


NO, JOK! YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL OF US TO GET TO THE CAPITOL!
PLEASE STOP, JOK!
I WON'T... I--ARRH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! YOU'RE SIDING WITH THEM!
COULDN'T HOLD HIM--!
WELL, YOU CAN'T STOP ME FOREVER! I'LL BE BACK!
I'LL BE BACK TO HAVE MY REVENGE--
--MY REVENGE ON YOU ALL!
NEXT: WEIRD OR ALIVE!
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A
VIGILANTE
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